

The answer
to Clesners if there is one
apparently has not yet
been written.

LNV

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Houston

SUBJECT: Comparison of Federal Bar Journal and CIA Articles on
Availability of Soviet Scientific Literature

1. The Federal Bar Journal issue of July-September 1957 contains an article by Jennie and Herschel Clesner, staff members of the Patent, Trademark and Copyright Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, entitled "The Dissemination of Technical, Scientific and Engineering Information as a Factor in 'Competitive Co-existence.'" The purpose of this article appears to be to stimulate governmental action toward making available to U.S. science and industry Soviet scientific and technical publications in usable form. The authors reprove government agencies including the Department of Commerce and the National Science Foundation for not utilizing legislative and executive authorities for this purpose which have been available for several years. The authors claim that the vast bulk of "a great flood of Soviet scientific publications . . . coming into this country" collects dust in the Library of Congress and elsewhere. "The average scientist and businessman are unaware of their existence", they write. They claim that the United States does not "adequately make available reports developed with public funds," and they slip in, incidentally it seems, that there is "no central organization trained to review classified scientific and technical information developed with public funds to determine whether a recommendation should be made to release it." "In the United States there is no governmental agency that operates as a central clearing house to search for, collect, translate, index, abstract and disseminate scientific and technical information in all the branches of learning . . ."

2. The Clesners probably would not quarrel with the facts in the CIA paper. It mentions the availability of Russian scientific literature and that abstracts and digests are available to the intelligence community. In paragraph three there is a reference to some "activities" carried on outside the intelligence community, and in paragraph 4 the Library of Congress' Monthly Index of Russian Accessions is described. Other unclassified index, abstracting and translating projects are mentioned. After reading and comparing the two articles, it does not appear that they are contradictory. The CIA article supplements the Clesner article but the proposition embodied in the latter is not affected, namely, that scientists and businessmen should be receiving expeditiously usable materials from Soviet literature and it is up to a government agency to see to it that they do. The CIA article, on the other hand, is written from the intelligence point of view and shows that the U.S. Government has programs designed to alert the intelligence community to Soviet scientific and technical literature which is available in this country.

Russian literature of scientific interest is available today in approximately 325 journals specifically devoted to scientific fields, another 75 partially occupied with items of scientific concern, and about 80 additional periodicals of a bibliographic nature in the scientific and technical fields. Of books and monographs there are approximately 2,000 per year available. In addition, two newspapers devote regular coverage to fields of science and technology.

The Air Force is abstracting all articles ^{in the most important} ~~in 137~~ journals. These abstracts are issued in card form and disseminated to the intelligence community. The Air Force also prepares reviews of books received and available in the Library of Congress. Meanwhile, OLI is producing two digests in the scientific field. One, entitled Scientific Information Report, has the objective of providing condensed information, whether in summary, extract or abstract form, on subjects of highest priority interest. This report, issued twice monthly, is the product of a complete screening of all Soviet scientific periodicals. The other digest is a compilation of items on International Geophysical Year activities.

These operations carried on within the intelligence community are specifically designed to serve intelligence purposes. However, some activities not so designed, and carried on outside the intelligence community, also produce information which can serve intelligence needs. The intelligence operations described above were therefore developed with cognizance of these others and with a view to making maximum use of them and avoiding duplication.

For bibliographic and indexing services there is first the Library of Congress' Monthly Index of Russian Accessions (MIRA). This publication gives the titles of all articles and books received. It is the bibliographic

to all Soviet literature, including scientific and technical items. In addition, two other libraries--the National Library of Medicine and the Agriculture Library--issue bibliographies which include the Russian literature in their respective fields; they overlap with the MIRA listings. All three publications are widely available.

There are also several specialized indexes. One in the Agriculture Department Library covers the field of veterinary medicine. This is in card files and not disseminated. Another, in CIA, indexes in card-file form information from Soviet literature or scientific institutions in the USSR. In addition, the abstracting services cited below usually provide indexes to the literature they have abstracted.

Abstracting is the most popular approach to scientific literature, and there are numerous professional abstracting societies. Among the best known are Chemical Abstracts, Excerpta Medica and Biological Abstracts. These professional organizations publish abstracts each in its own field, usually with a lag of six to eighteen months from the publication date of the original source material. In addition, the Joint Publications Research Service has begun issuing translations of the abstracts produced by the Soviets themselves and published in their abstract journal Referativnyy Zhurnal. These are abstracts of their own literature. The three series being translated are chemistry, physics and biology.

With respect to translation, a rather extensive program of cover-to-cover translation covering some 30 to 40 journals is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, and this is supplemented by work undertaken by commercial translating agencies. Translation of specific articles is sponsored by a wide range of agencies and

organizations, and a complete monthly listing is issued by CIA in its Consolidated Translation Survey.

Intelligence then has available for analysis and evaluation a broad selection of the important information on Soviet science obtainable from the literature. It does not, of course, have an abstract of every article nor a translation of every article. But that is hardly necessary or even advisable. Translating every **piece** of scientific literature put out by the USSR would fill an estimated 1,500,000 pages per year at a cost of over six million dollars, provided a sufficient number of linguists could be found to do the job. The analytic handling of such an indiscriminate mass of material would be next to impossible. We have what we need, a good alerting and screening mechanism for the exploitation of Russian scientific literature.

Approved For Release 2004/05/12 : CIA-RDP62-00631R000300200011-6

TRANSMITTAL SHEET

17 June 58

TO:

Mr. Houston

ROOM NO.

221

BUILDING

East

REMARKS:

Unclassified excerpt
from [redacted] article.

If you need a separate
one from the Pugh
(Library of Congress) article,
I can ask him about
it.

FROM

[redacted]

ROOM NO.

BUILDING

EXTENSION

Approved For Release 2004/05/12 : CIA-RDP62-00631R000300200011-6

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

STAT